

The Ultimate Study Guide for John Milton's Paradise Lost: Unlock the Masterpiece of English Literature



Study Guide for John Milton's Paradise Lost (Course Hero Study Guides) by Margaret Stohl

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 743 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 336 pages

Lending : Enabled



John Milton's Paradise Lost is an epic poem that has captivated readers for centuries. It is a complex and challenging work, but it is also one of the most rewarding pieces of literature ever written. Our study guide will help you understand the poem's major themes, characters, literary devices, and historical context. With this guide, you will be able to appreciate the beauty and power of Milton's masterpiece.

Major Themes

Paradise Lost explores several major themes, including:

* **The nature of good and evil:** The poem explores the origins of evil and the struggle between good and evil. * **The fall of humanity:** The poem tells the story of Adam and Eve's fall from grace. * **The power of free will:** The poem argues that humans have the free will to choose between good and

evil. * **The importance of redemption:** The poem suggests that even those who have fallen from grace can be redeemed.

Main Characters

The main characters in Paradise Lost include:

* **Satan:** The leader of the fallen angels. He is a complex and tragic figure who is both evil and sympathetic. * **Adam:** The first man. He is a noble and innocent figure who is tempted by Satan and falls from grace. * **Eve:** The first woman. She is a beautiful and intelligent figure who is also tempted by Satan and falls from grace. * **Christ:** The savior of humanity. He appears at the end of the poem to redeem Adam and Eve from their sins.

Literary Devices

Milton uses a variety of literary devices in Paradise Lost, including:

* **Epic similes:** These similes compare things to other things that are vast and impressive. For example, Milton compares Satan to a whale. *

Metaphors: These metaphors compare two things that are not alike in order to create a new and surprising image. For example, Milton compares Satan to a serpent. *

Personification: This literary device gives human qualities to nonhuman things. For example, Milton personifies Sin and Death. *

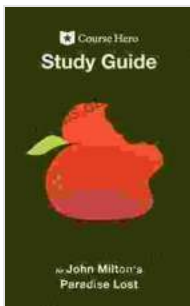
Alliteration: This literary device uses the repetition of consonant sounds. For example, Milton writes, "The world was all before them, where to choose."

Historical Context

Paradise Lost was written during a time of great religious and political turmoil in England. The English Civil War had just ended, and the country

was still divided between those who supported the monarchy and those who supported Parliament. Milton was a Puritan, and he supported Parliament. He wrote Paradise Lost to justify the Puritan cause.

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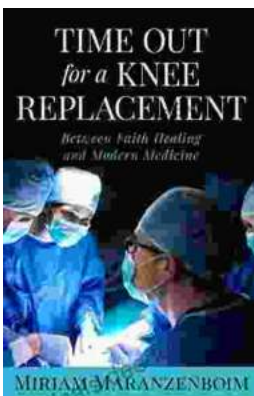
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